



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

October 28, 1998

H.R. 4821

**An act to extend into fiscal year 1999 the visa processing period
for diversity applicants whose visa processing was suspended
during fiscal year 1998 due to embassy bombings**

As cleared by the Congress on October 21, 1998

H.R. 4821 would waive fees for certain applicants for immigrant visas in fiscal year 1999. Every year the Department of State holds an immigrant visa (green card) lottery and receives applications from eligible countries. The recent embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania delayed the green card process for certain successful applicants and made them ineligible to receive green cards in 1998. The act would allow these individuals to receive green cards in 1999 without having to pay an additional processing fee.

Current law authorizes the Department of State to collect this \$75 processing fee from successful applicants and gives the department the authority to spend those collections. H.R. 4821 would affect direct spending because it would reduce both the amount of fees collected and the spending from those collections. The amounts involved would not be significant, however, because the number of individuals involved is small and because forgone collections would be offset by correspondingly lower spending.

The estimate was prepared by Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.